

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 271633

42

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

666

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:AEGRIFIN/MW

APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK

S/S-O:MTANNER

NEA:EABINGTON

----- 046969

O 171808Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271633

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DACCA 5625 ACTION SECSTATE NOV 17.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5625

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SREF, BG, US

SUBJ: BANGLADESH OFFICER'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM

1. FOLLOWING TODAY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY CHASHI AND NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSSAIN ASKED ME AND DCM TO STAY ON BRIEFLY TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEM OF FINDING ASYLUM FOR THE MILITARY GROUP IN BANGKOK.

2. THEY EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD NOT REALIZED UNTIL YESTERDAY THAT THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN EXTENDING THE GROUP'S STAY IN BANGKOK BUT HAD NOW LEARNED THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WAS INSISTING THAT IT WOULD NOT PROLONG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 271633

THEIR STAY BEYOND TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 18. THEY THEREFORE

WISHED OUR HELP IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS NEW "CRISIS."
PROFESSING TO BE VAGUE ABOUT WHETHER OUR PREVIOUS ASSURANCES
HAD INCLUDED THE MAJORS (I SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT),
CHASHI SAID THEY HAD ALWAYS HOPED THE USG COULD BE COUNTED
ON TO ASSIST IF ALL OTHER POSSIBILITIES FAILED AND, IN
VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN BANGKOK, THEY WERE NOW OBLIGED
TO CALL FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. THEY HOPED (1) THAT WE COULD
ALLOW THE GROUP TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES, AT LEAST
ON A VISIT UNTIL MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE
WORKED OUT ELSEWHERE; OR (2) THAT WE COULD SPEAK AS A
GOOD FRIEND OF THAILAND TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO HELP
PREVAIL UPON THEM TO EXTEND THE MILITARY GROUP'S STAY
THERE. CHASHI EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A "LAST RESORT"
REQUEST FOR A FAVORABLE U.S. DECISION.

3. I ASKED WHY, WITH THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS IN
BANGLADESH, THEY COULD NOT SIMPLY RETURN TO DACCA. CHASHI
SAID IT WAS THEIR JUDGMENT THAT THIS WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS
WITHIN THEIR MILITARY; THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO BRING
ABOUT A SITUATION OF NORMALCY AND THAT THIS NORMALCY WOULD
BE UPSET BY THEIR RETURN. HE REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT
THEIR ORIGINAL DEPARTURE HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO PREVENT
BLOODSHED AND SUGGESTED THAT THE BENEFITS OF THE "NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT" WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY THEIR RETURN.

4. ASKED WHAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS THEY HAD PURSUED THIS
WITH, THEY SAID THEY HAD NOT PURSUED IT WITH ANY GOVERNMENT
TO THE POINT OF A FINAL TURNDOWN. THEY DID MENTION THAT
THEY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH "CASUALLY" WITH THE BRITISH BUT
THE BRITISH HAD REFERRED TO ADVERSE PUBLICITY AS A REASON
FOR NOT WISHING TO HELP (SEE SEPTTEL FOR FULLER REPORT ON
DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH).

5. I SAID THAT I OF COURSE CONVEY THEIR REQUEST,
NOTING THAT THE MILITARY GROUP'S APPLICATION FOR ASYLUM
HAD BEEN MADE TO US IN BANGKOK AND PRESUMABLY WAS STILL
UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON WHERE THEY HAD ALL THE
FACTS ABOUT THE MATTER. I SAID I WOULD URGE CHASHI AND
TABARAK HUSAIN, HOWEVER, TO PURSUE THEIR EXPLORATION OF
THIS MATTER WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 271633

6. IN ESCORTING US TO THE CAR TABARAK HUSAIN EMPHASIZED
THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO THIS ISSUE BY INDICATING
HE HAD SPENT TWO HOURS ON IT WITH THE PRESIDENT LAST
EVENING; HE ALSO APPEARED TO PUT PARTICULAR WEIGHT ON
THEIR REQUEST FOR HELP IN PERSUADING THE THAI GOVERNMENT
TO ALLOW THE GROUP TO STAY LONGER. HE MENTIONED THAT THEY
WOULD TRY TO GET SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO TAKE THEM
AND SAID HE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM OVER THE WEEKEND TO

AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI SUGGESTING THAT SIDDIQI SOUND OUT
LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON. WHEN I NOTED THAT
BANGLADESH HAD ITS OWN EMBASSIES IN SOME LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES, TABARAK HUSAIN SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT GET IN
TOUCH WITH THEM.

7. COMMENT. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT WE ACCEPT THE
MILITARY GROUP EITHER TEMPORARILY OR THE ASYLUM PURPOSES
AT THIS TIME SINCE THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH SHOULD
BE ABLE TO HELP BANGLADESH WITHOUT INCURRING AS STRONG
DISADVANTAGES FROM SUCH ACTION AS WE WOULD, BOTH PRESUMABLY
IN OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND IN DOMESTIC TERMS HERE.
IT MAY BE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD CONSIDER
SUGGESTING TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT THAT IT GIVE THE
BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT A LITTLE LONGER TIME TO SOLVE THIS
PROBLEM. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT THE BDG HAS DONE
MUCH SERIOUS WORK YET IN CANVASSING ITS POSSIBILITIES,
PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY OVERESTIMATED HOW MUCH TIME THEY
HAD IN BANGKOK.

8. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO BANGKOK
AND NEW DELHI.
BOSTER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE271633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AEGRIFIN/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750400-0022
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751139/aaaabiuj.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH OFFICER'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM
TAGS: SREF, BG, US
To: BANGKOK NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006